YEAR 11 GCSE SUCCESS.

WHAT MATTERS NOW

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



Year 11 KEY DATES

1 PRE PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS & FEEDBACK

Tues 24 Nov – Fri 11 Dec	**Pre Public Examinations (mocks)**	First formal mock examination period
Thu 21 Jan	**Post-16 Open Evening**	Explore options for life after Year 11
Tue 26 Jan	**SLT one-to-one results day**	Discuss mock results and next steps
Tues 26 Jan	**Progress reports sent home**	Review progress and attainment
Thu 28 Jan	**Face-to-face Consultation Evening**	Meet teachers and agree priorities

2 FINAL PREPARATION

Mon 22 Feb	**Pre Public Examinations (mocks)**	Maths, English, Science, French, Spanish, History & Geography
Mon 1 Mar	**In-class assessments begin**	All other subjects
Mon 22 Mar	**Progress reports sent home**	Final progress update before GCSEs

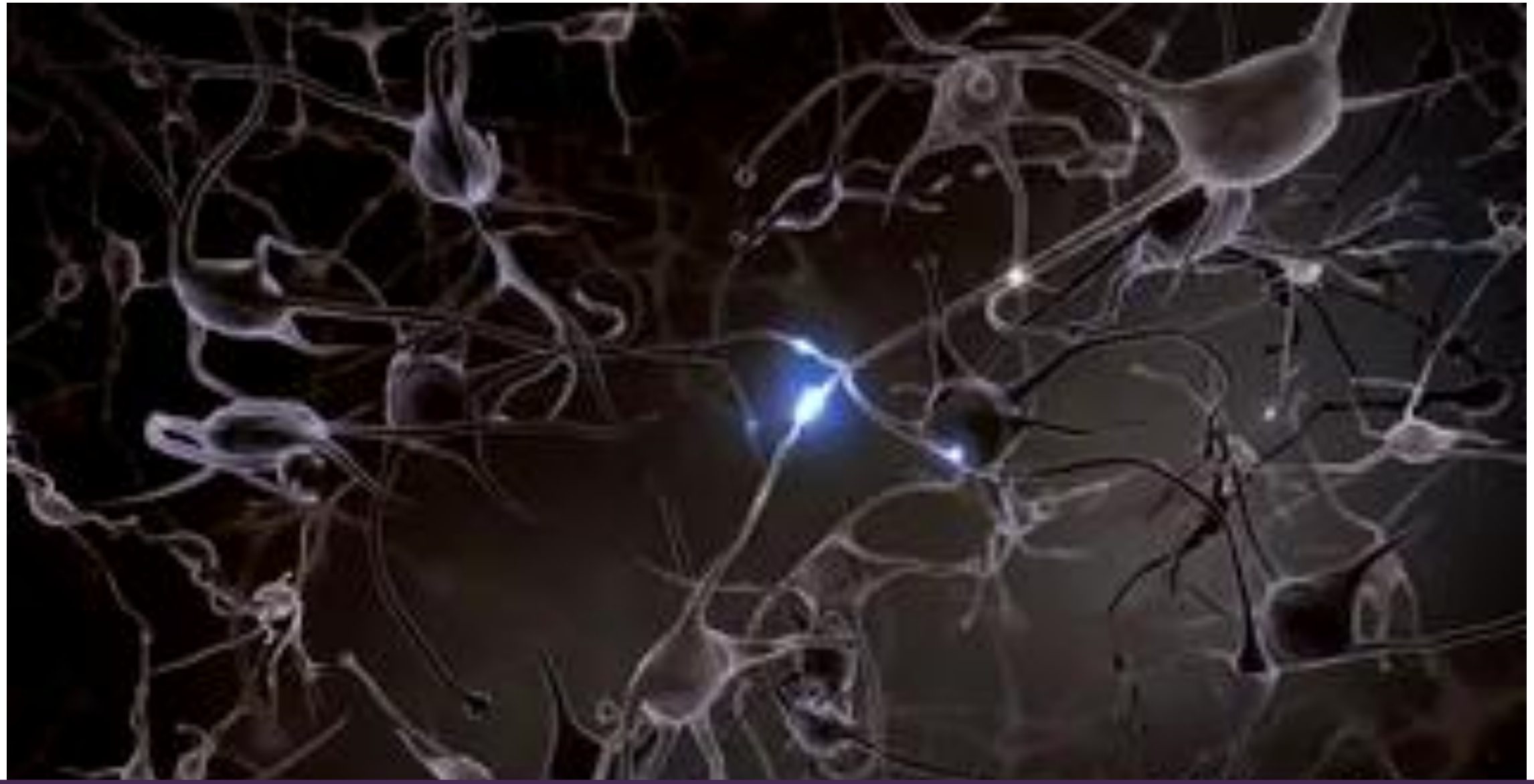
3 GCSE EXAMINATIONS

Mon 10 May	**GCSE examinations begin**	Main summer examination period
Fri 18 Jun	**GCSE examinations end**	Planned final day of examinations

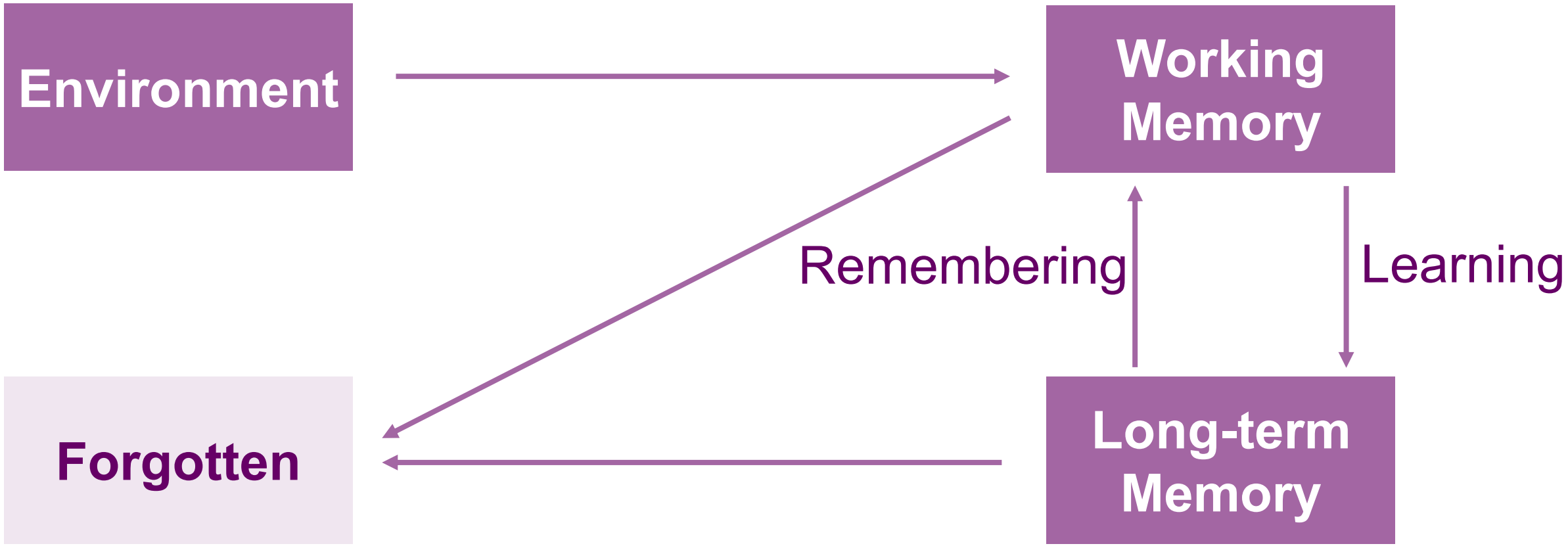
Dates are planned and may change. Students should follow their individual examination timetables.

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

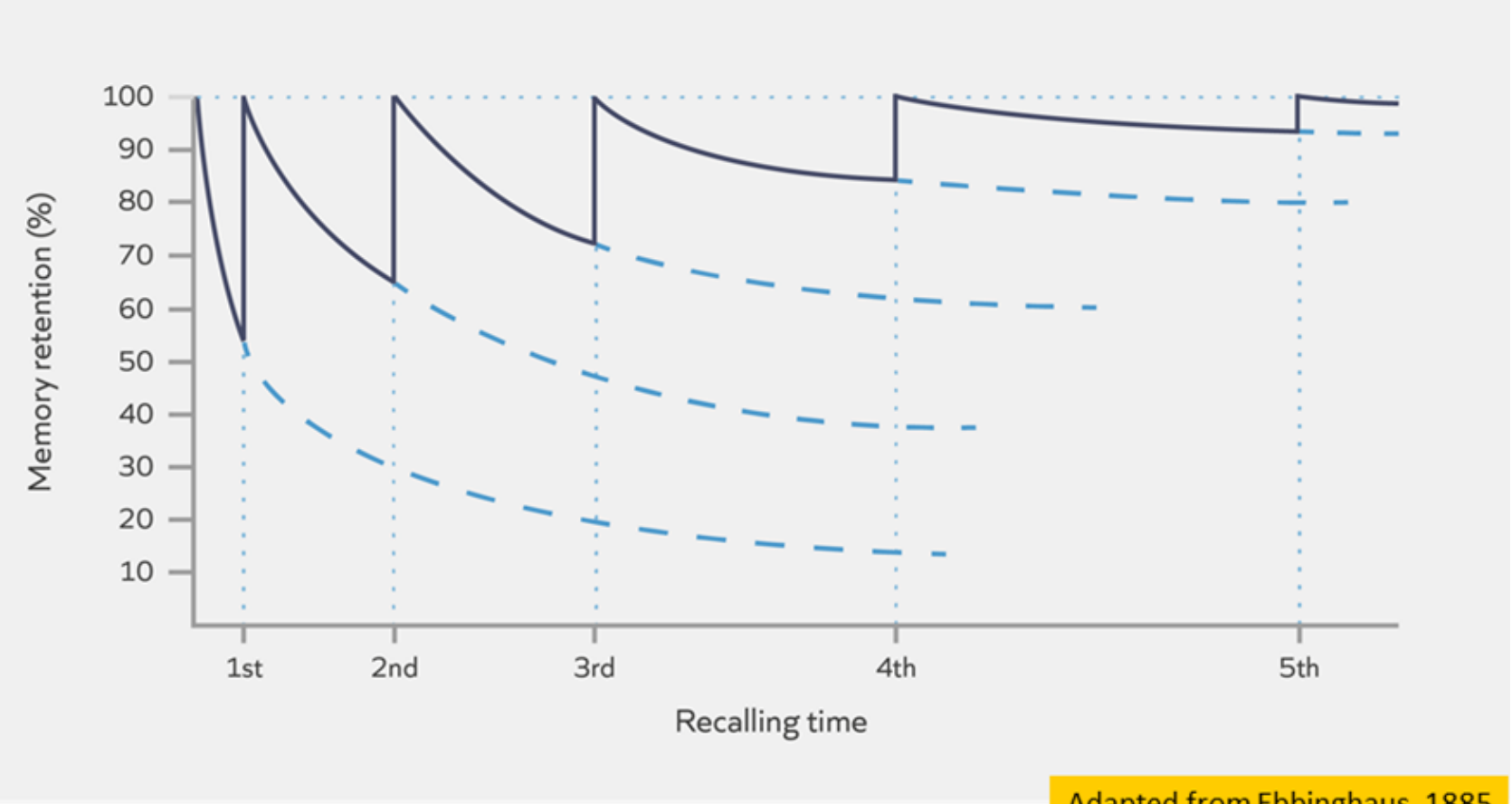
Revision that works



How our memory works



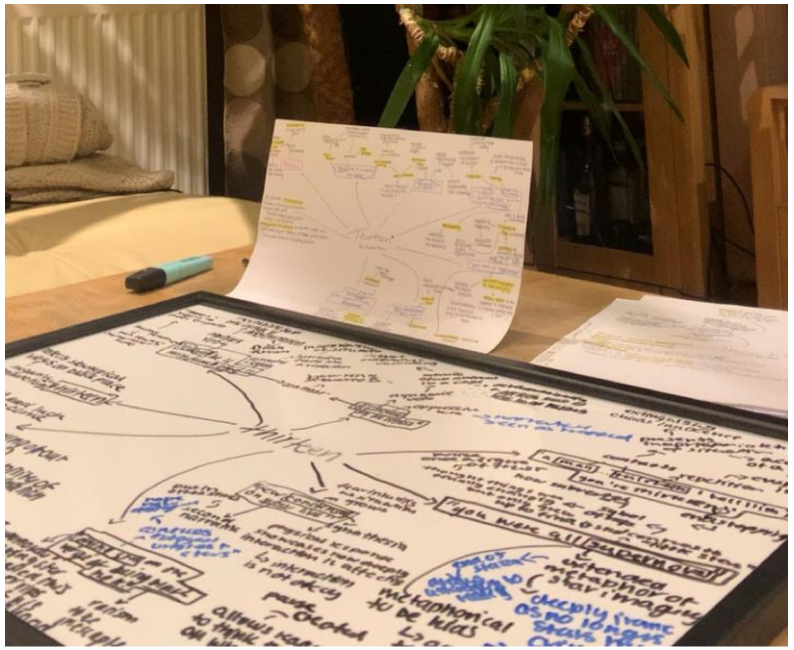
Space repetition



Adapted from Ebbinghaus, 1885

Testing ourselves over increasingly long intervals helps to keep information in our long-term memory.

Karina - Mind Maps and Blurting

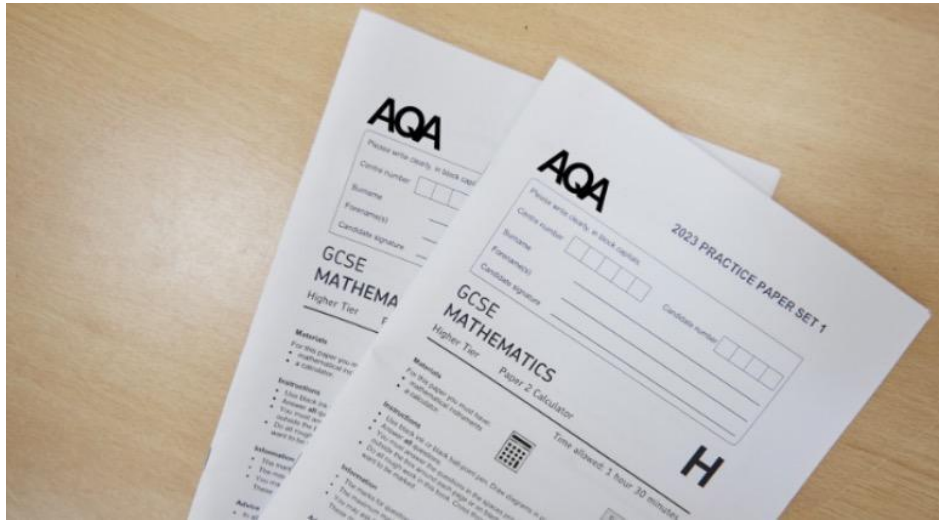


- **Organise** key topics and information visually
- For english - mind maps allowed me learn good analysis with quotes
- **Test yourself** on what you can remember
- **Identify gaps** in your knowledge and repeat

Worked best for me in:
History and English Literature

Mind map → Cover → Blurt → Check → Repeat

Karina - Using Past Papers



- Using past papers in your revision allows you to **apply** your knowledge
- Get used to exam style questions.
- Learn from your mistakes and **identify gaps** in your learning
- Watch **walkthrough videos** on Youtube

Websites i'd consider using:
Maths - first class maths, maths genie
Science - physics and maths tutor, mme revise

Worked best for me in:
Maths and Science

Clodagh - Utilise online videos

Cognito

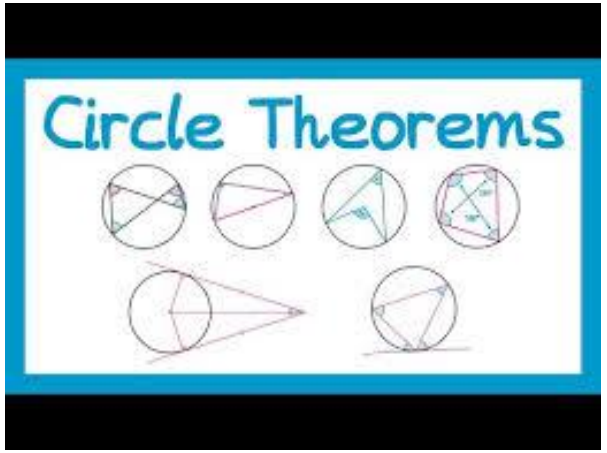




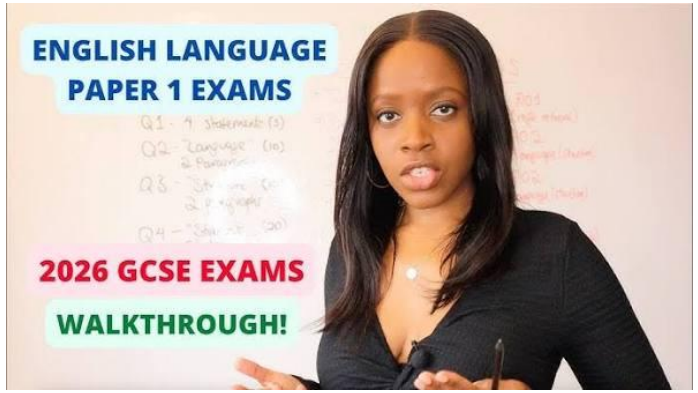


Free science lessons

First class maths



The Lightup hub



First rate tudor

Clodagh - Participate in class



Passive learning

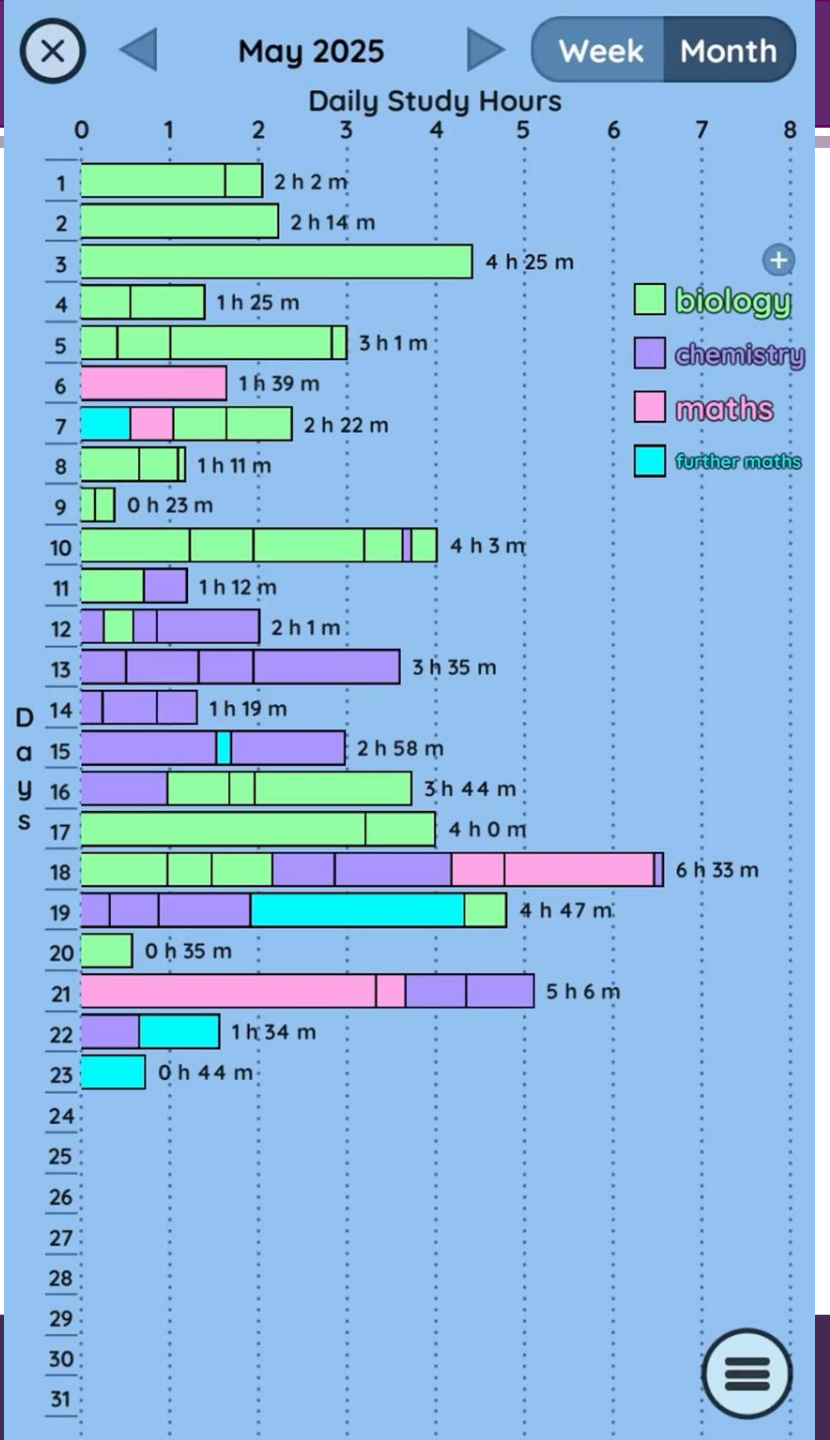


Active learning

Kyla - Study bunny

Study bunny is a productivity and focus app that uses a virtual pet to help you stay on task.



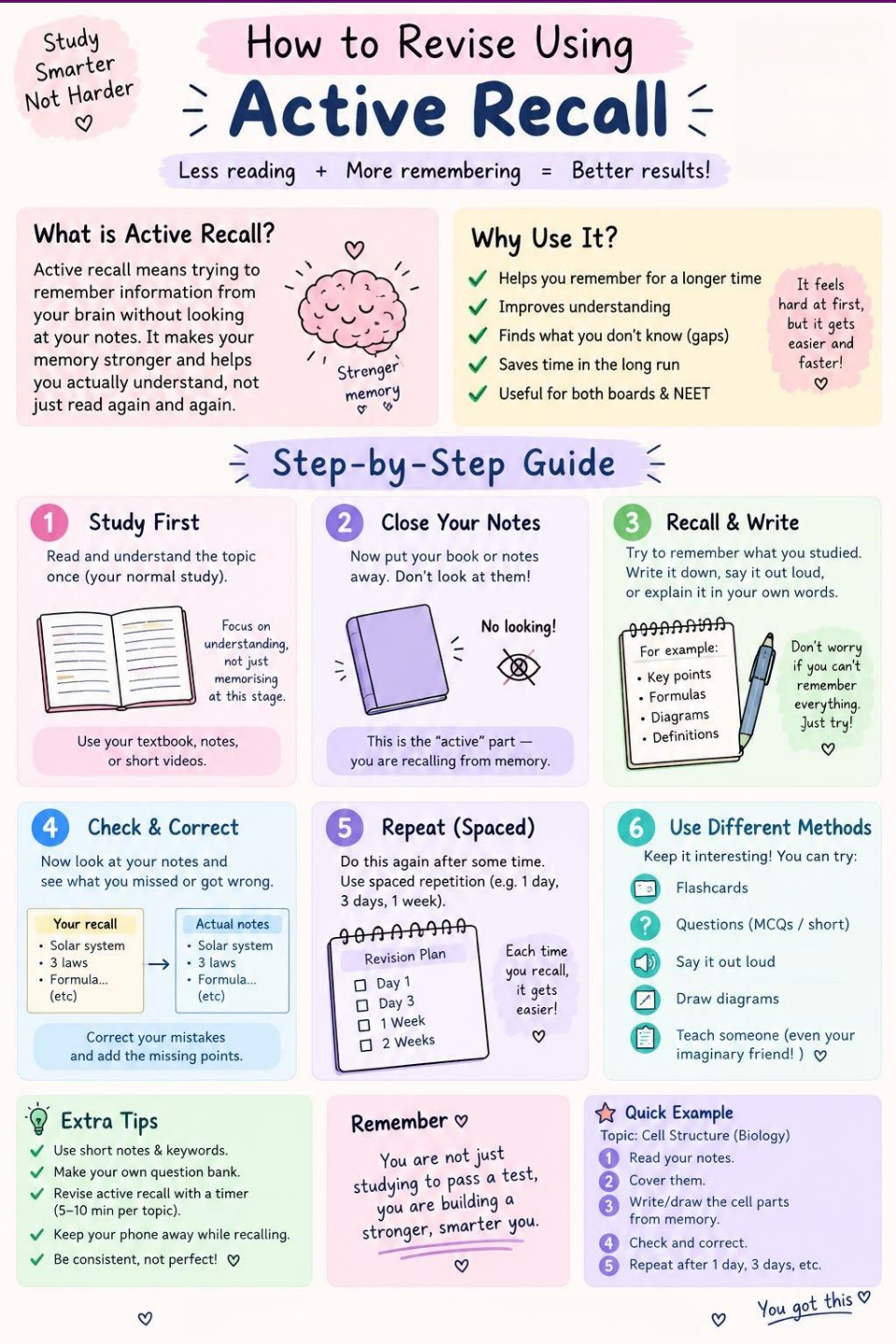


Kyla - Active Recall

Is a study method where you test memory by pulling information directly from your brain instead of passively reading notes.

Passive Study vs Active recall

- Creates a false sense of familiarity rather than true memory
- Proves what you actually know and improves test performance



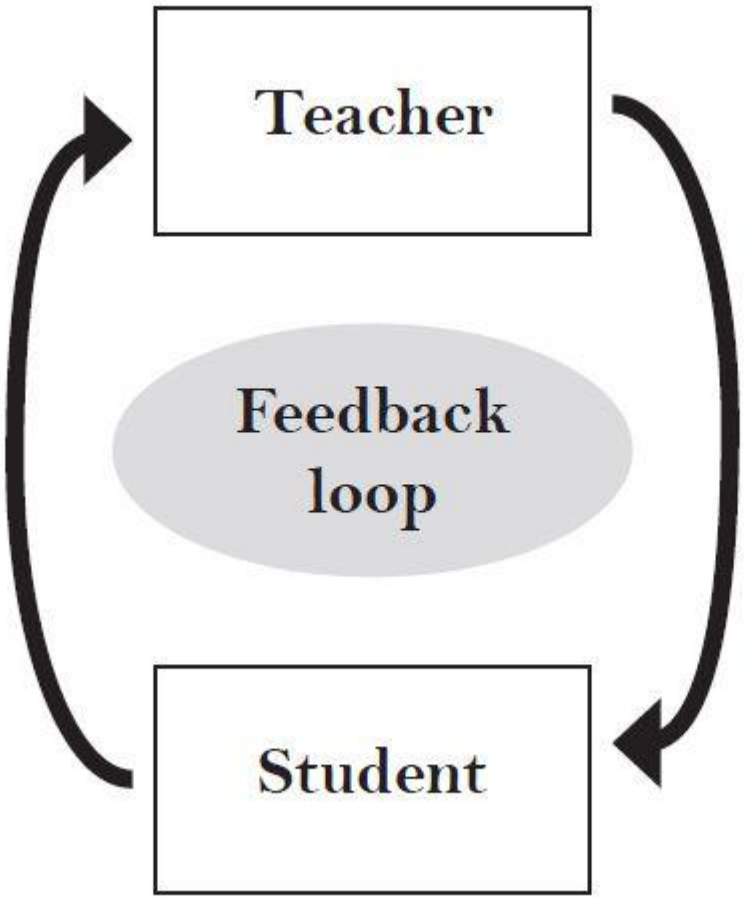
Lisiana - Using your teachers

- Ask questions
- Remain interested
- **Get Feedback**





Teaching is adapted based on student responses.
So that …
Teaching is responsive.



Regular and specific improvement points are used to close the learning gap.
So that …
Learning is informed.

Lisiana - Go to revision sessions and set timers

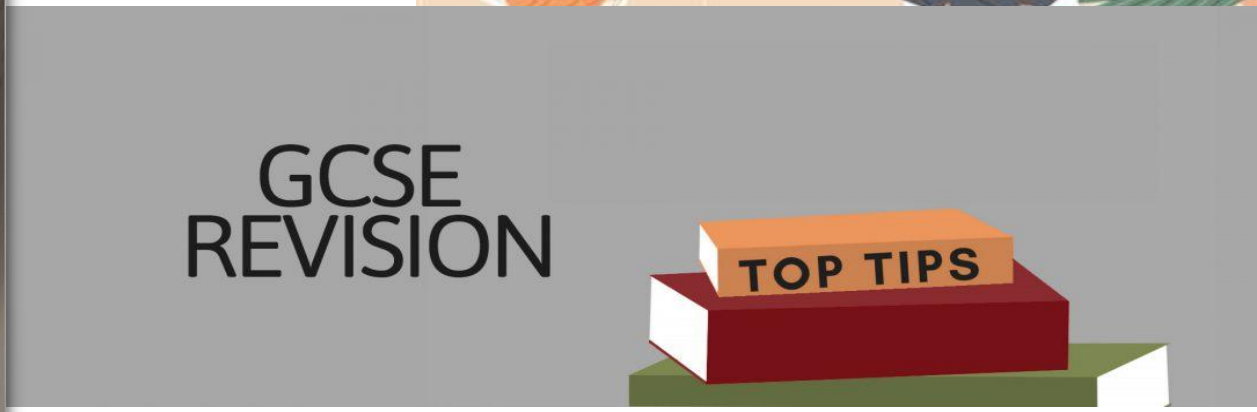
The sessions are for YOU.
My last year's favourites…

- History
- English





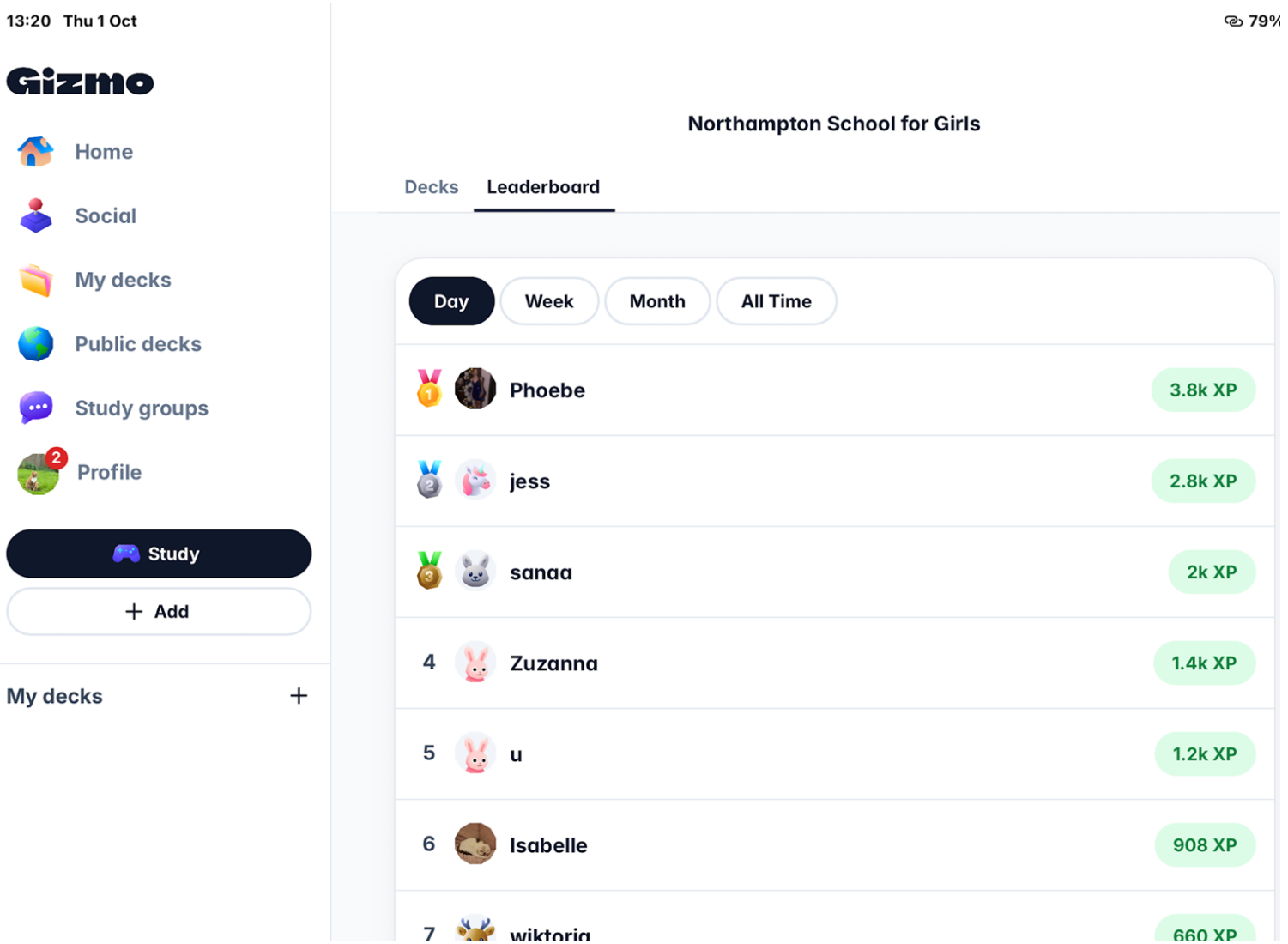




Evie - Online flashcards - Gizmo

- Create quizzes
- Active recall
- Variety of question styles
- Challenge friends

Gizmo



Evie - Knowledge organisers

Create knowledge organisers and condense information.



The stoplight method for studying

Color code your notes using red, yellow, and green markers to indicate your level of comfort with the material.
For example:

Red

You're lost. These are areas where you need to ask your professor or teaching assistant for some help.

Yellow

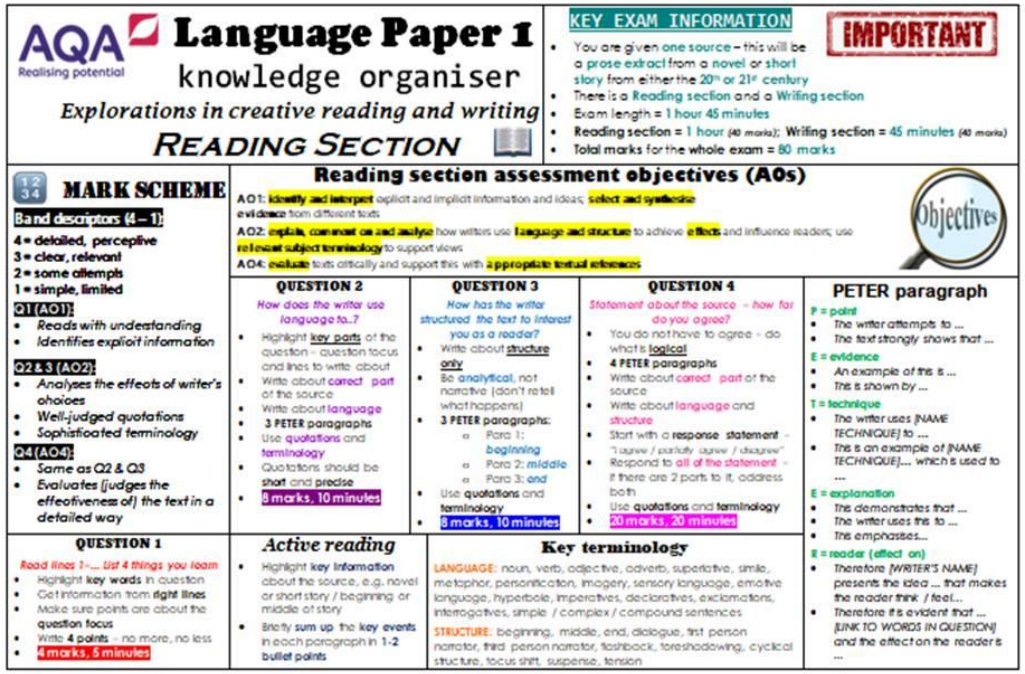
You've almost got it. You need to review this info a couple more times to feel confident.

Green

You're a pro. You're confident on this topic.

Another clever way to use this method is by making three piles of flash cards. Color code the cards based on the stoplight scheme, circulating the red cards the most.

- Strong visual learning aids
- Improves recall



AQA Realising potential

Language Paper 1
knowledge organiser
Explorations in creative reading and writing
READING SECTION

KEY EXAM INFORMATION — IMPORTANT

- You are given one source – this will be a prose extract from a novel or short story from either the 20th or 21st century
- There is a Reading section and a Writing section
- Exam length = 1 hour 45 minutes
- Reading section = 1 hour (40 marks); Writing section = 45 minutes (40 marks)
- Total marks for the whole exam = 80 marks

MARK SCHEME

Band descriptors (4 – 1):
4 = detailed, perceptive
3 = clear, relevant
2 = some attempts
1 = simple, limited

Q1 (AO1):
- Reads with understanding
- Identifies explicit information

Q2 & 3 (AO2):
- Analyses the effects of writer's choices
- Well-judged quotations
- Sophisticated terminology

Q4 (AO4):
- Same as Q2 & Q3
- Evaluates (judges the effectiveness of) the text in a detailed way

Reading section assessment objectives (AOs)

AO1: identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas; select and synthesise evidence from different texts
AO2: explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers; use relevant subject terminology to support views
AO4: evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references

Objectives

QUESTION 2
How does the writer use language to...?
- Highlight key parts of the question – question focus and lines to write about
- Write about correct part of the source
- Write about language
- 3 PETER paragraphs
- Use quotations and terminology
- Quotations should be short and precise
- 8 marks, 10 minutes

QUESTION 3
How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?
- Write about structure only
- Be analytical, not narrative (don't retell what happens)
- 3 PETER paragraphs:
  - Para 1: beginning
  - Para 2: middle
  - Para 3: end
- Use quotations and terminology
- 8 marks, 10 minutes

QUESTION 4
Statement about the source – how far do you agree?
- You do not have to agree – do what is logical
- 4 PETER paragraphs
- Write about correct part of the source
- Write about language and structure
- Start with a response statement – "I agree / partially agree / disagree"
- Respond to all of the statement – if there are 2 parts to it, address both
- Use quotations and terminology
- 20 marks, 20 minutes

PETER paragraph
P = point
- The writer attempts to ...
- The text strongly shows that ...

E = evidence
- An example of this is ...
- This is shown by ...

T = technique
- The writer uses [NAME TECHNIQUE] to ...
- This is an example of [NAME TECHNIQUE]... which is used to ...

E = explanation
- This demonstrates that ...
- The writer uses this to ...
- This emphasises...

E = reader (effect on)
- Therefore [WRITER'S NAME] presents the idea ... that makes the reader think / feel...
- Therefore it is evident that ... [LINK TO WORDS IN QUESTION] and the effect on the reader is ...

QUESTION 1
Read lines 1-... List 4 things you learn
- Highlight key words in question
- Get information from right lines
- Make sure points are about the question focus
- Write 4 points – no more, no less
- 4 marks, 5 minutes

Active reading
- Highlight key information about the source, e.g. novel or short story / beginning or middle of story
- Briefly sum up the key events in each paragraph in 1-2 bullet points

Key terminology
LANGUAGE: noun, verb, adjective, adverb, superlative, simile, metaphor, personification, imagery, sensory language, emotive language, hyperbole, imperatives, declaratives, exclamations, interrogatives, simple / complex / compound sentences
STRUCTURE: beginning, middle, end, dialogue, first person narrator, third person narrator, flashback, foreshadowing, cyclical structure, focus shift, suspense, tension

Can be used later on for blurting and similar methods!

Emma - Exercise, regular breaks and rewards

Exercise 🚶 🚴

- Does not need to be long or intense
- A walk or light stretching allows you to rewind and take productive breaks

Regular breaks - Breaks are **crucial** 🔃

- Help to maintain concentration, make revision more manageable and provide a reset during revision of difficult concepts or intense memorisation

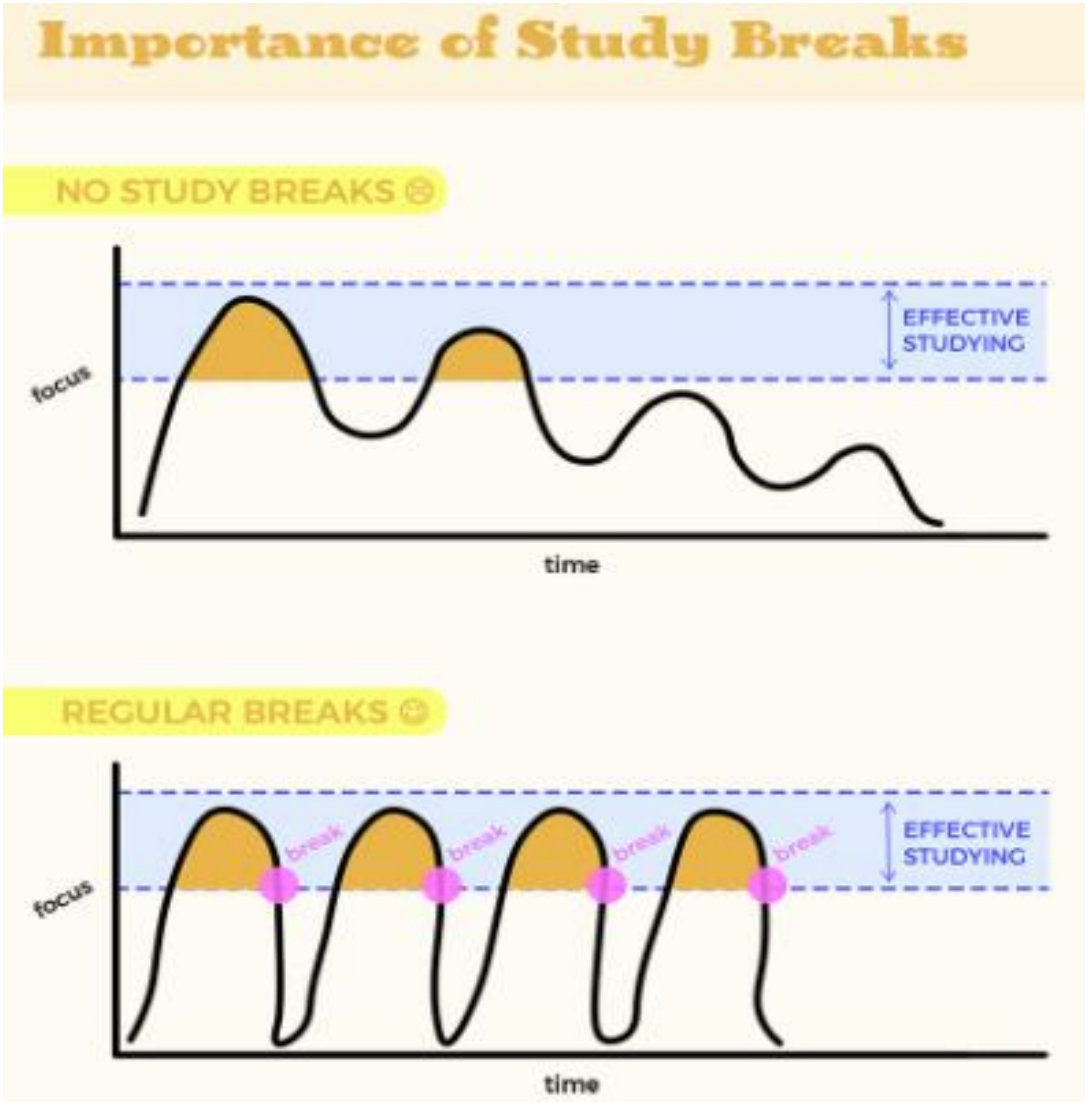
Rewards 🎉 💞

- Set a clear goal (e.g. completing a past paper or going through some flashcards)
- Plan something enjoyable afterwards to provide motivation

Rewards include: Watching a new episode of a series, enjoying your favourite snack, listening to music, meeting a friend, allocating time for a hobby etc.

Emma - Exercise, regular breaks and rewards





Emma - Use of AI

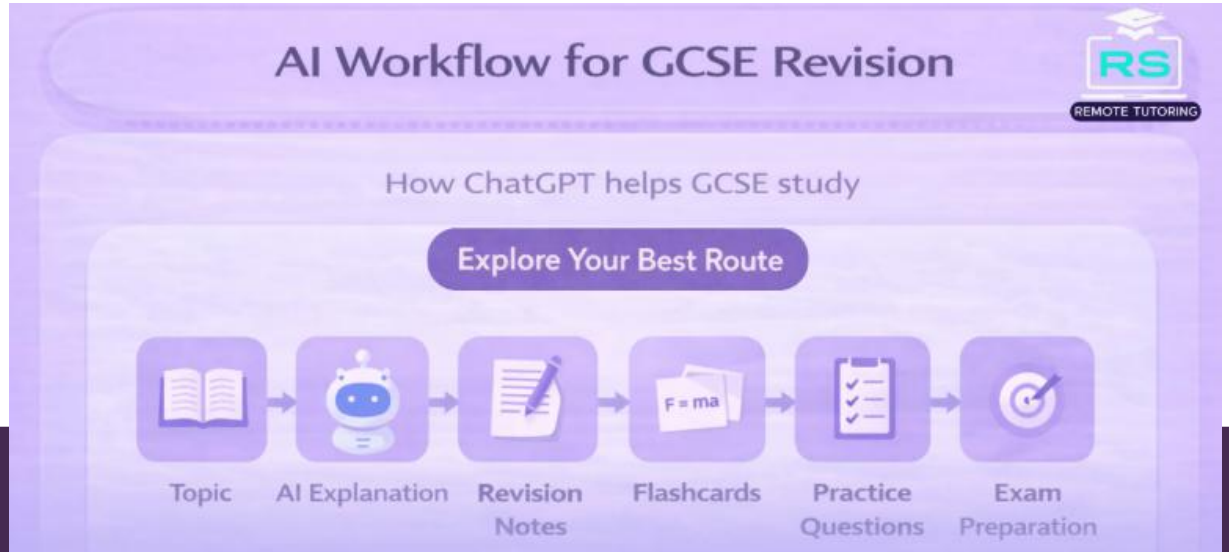
Gemini

Claude AI

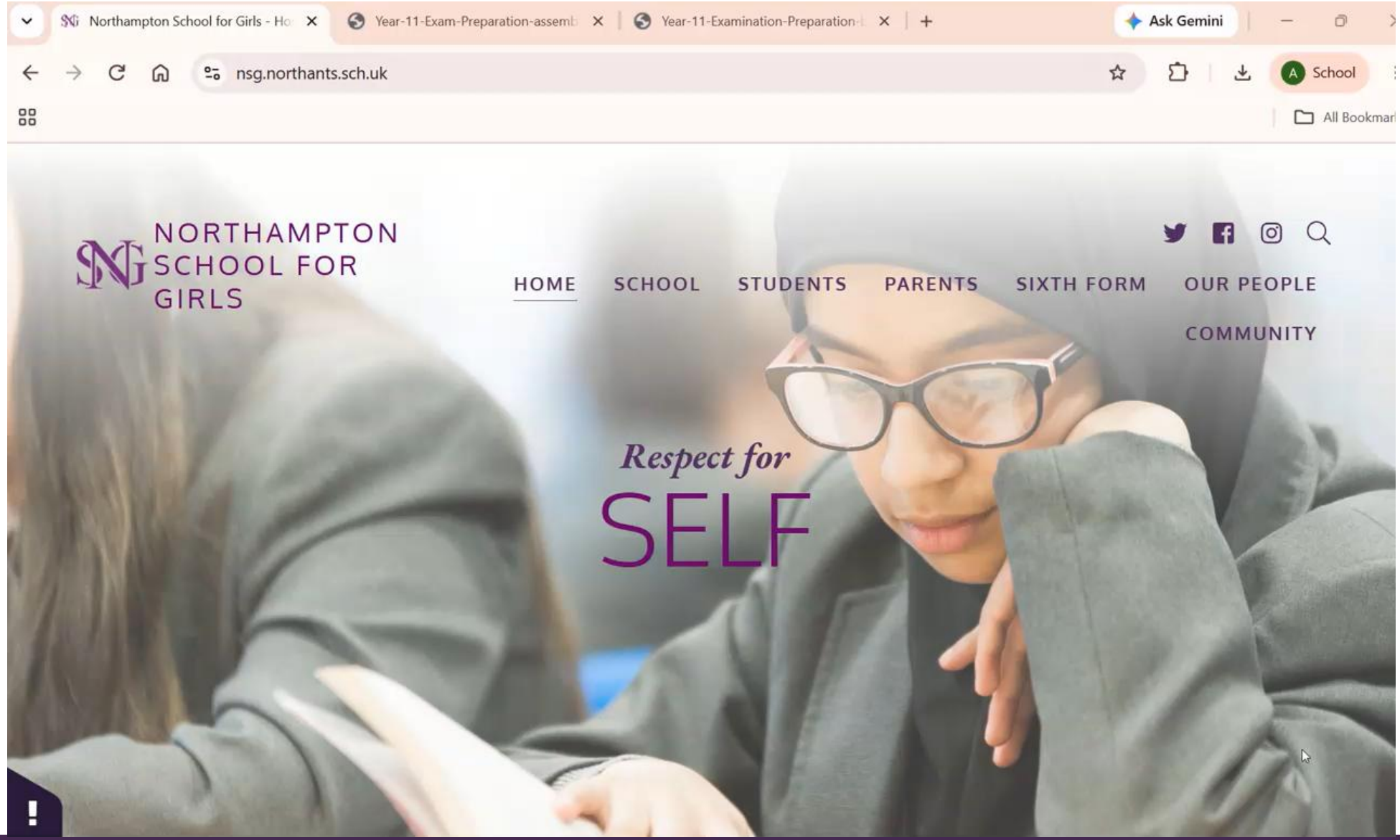
ChatGPT

- 📚 Test your knowledge of topics and make revision schedules
- 🌻 Explain harder concepts in simple terms
- 🪷 Gain feedback for practice questions
- 🔍 Personalise feedback using specification and mark schemes + adjust difficulty level

Remember to try answering the questions yourself first rather than passively reading
AI can make mistakes, so check against your specification, class notes and teacher feedback



Resources


Northampton School for Girls - Ho
Year-11-Exam-Preparation-assemb
Year-11-Examination-Preparation-
Ask Gemini
nsg.northants.sch.uk
School
All Bookmar
NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
HOME
SCHOOL
STUDENTS
PARENTS
SIXTH FORM
OUR PEOPLE
COMMUNITY
Respect for
SELF